HR NEWSLETTER

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BLM/NPS/BIA-NIFC

TSP: Annual Statements are Coming!

A message from TSP:

Beginning this February, whether you usually receive your quarterly statements in the mail or via the TSP Website, the TSP will send you an annual participant statement. The statement provides valuable information about your investments as of the end of the prior year as well as the personal information the TSP has on file for you—including a list of your TSP beneficiaries, if you have designated any.

It also contains your TSP account number, which you must use when accessing the secure sections of the TSP website and the Thriftline or completing most TSP forms. And finally, we've included a section for messages and reminders about your account.

Please review your statement carefully to be sure that the information we have about you is correct; it is particularly important to keep your address up to date. If the information is not correct, follow the instructions at the top of your statement.

Questions about your contributions and/or loan payment should be directed to your agency, since it is responsible for submitting them to the TSP. To update your beneficiary information, you should use Form TSP-3 which is available at www.tsp.gov and send directly to TSP.

When we mail the statements in February, we'll announce it on the TSP website. We will also post the leaflet "How to Read Your Annual TSP Participant Statement" and a set of Questions and Answers about selected parts of the statement—like how we calculate your personal investment performance. The leaflet will also be mailed to you with the statement.

We hope you'll find this new service helpful in planning for your retirement and checking to see how well your TSP account is doing.

Mandatory Training Reminder

It is that time again for annual mandatory online training. Employees are reminded that they MUST complete the following by May 16, 2008:

- Records Management Awareness
- Orientation to the Privacy Act

Employees can access these courses by logging on to DOI Learn.

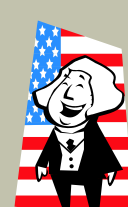
https://doilearn.doi.gov/

For specific questions on who must complete the training, refer to IM TC 2008-02.

Inside this issue:

Federal Holiday:

- February 18th is a Federal Holiday, HR will be closed



Electronic Retirement Information

The following is provided by the National Institute of Transition Planning.

The Office of Personnel Management's retirement systems modernization will celebrate a milestone in 2008 by handling the first wave of retirees under a new system based on electronic record-keeping and claims processing.

The implementation of the RSM program began in July 2006 and will continue through 2010.

Employees of GSA and OPM will be the first wave and are scheduled to migrate to the new system starting next month.

Employees serviced by the National Business Center (NBC) are scheduled to migrate in August 2008. NOTE: DOI is serviced by NBC.

For more information on the Retirement Systems Modernization (RSM), refer to the following website.

http://www.opm.gov/rsm/Index.asp

Did you know…

Employees can log on to Employee Express, and print a copy of their 2007 W-2 form.

Retired Public Safety Officers Information

The following is provided by the National Institute of Transition Planning.

Most federal employees lose their insurance tax breaks after retirement. This includes flexible spending accounts as well as the benefit of using pre-tax dollars to pay health insurance premiums.

But the Pension Protection Act of 2006 included a provision that provides pre-tax treatment of health benefits and long-term care insurance premiums for retired public safety officers (law enforcement officer, fire-fighter, etc).

OPM has determined that CSRS and FERS are eligible retirement plans under the law, meaning that retired public safety officers whose annuity payments include a direct premium payment to a health insurance carrier or long term care insurance carrier may identify themselves to the IRS as eligible for the tax benefit.

For more information, refer to IRS Publication 721 or your tax professional.

FERS & Sick Leave

Did you know a bill is currently being drafted that would compensate some retiring federal employees for unused sick leave?

The latest draft of the bill would give FERS retiring employees up to $10,000 in compensation.

Currently, employees under the FERS retirement system receive no compensation for their unused sick leave when they retire.

This bill is meant to discourage employees from abusing their sick leave benefits as they near the end of their career.

It is estimated that sick leave abuse costs the federal government about $68 million a year.

The cost of the bill can not be analyzed until the bill is introduced.

Stay Tuned!

BLM/NPS/BIA-NIFC

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Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

EAP Consultants Inc. is a free employee assistance online resource.

To check out the articles and news on the EAP Consultants Inc. website, visit:

www.eapconsultants.com

(password: NIFC)

Or, you can contact them 24 hours per day at:

1-800-869-0276.

You will need to identify yourself as a "NIFC" employee.

For questions regarding EAP, contact Sheri Kososik at X5527.

We're on the Web!

http://www.blm.gov/nifc/st/en/prog/fire/more/human_resources.html

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